

Table 15. Nesting Locations and Sightings of Black Terns in Idaho, 1993.

Map #	Location	Lat-Long. (TRS)	* Nests	* Birds	Date	Comments	Source
1	Gray's Lake NWR	43.01-111.27 (T3S,R43E,S4)	-	21	5-26	Not nesting yet, n. of Bear Island. S. Bouffard said that they will nest there.	This Study
1	" " "	" "	6-12	2	6-26	Flying over open water on the w. side.	" "
2	Oxford Slough WPA	42.15-112.02 (T13S,R38E,S35)	-	3	6-5	Feeding over the reduced Oxford Pond, about a mile s.w. of the slough.	" "
2	" " "	" "	-	8	6-5	At the Downey Slough, but not breeding here, as absent on 6-23. These might have been a foraging flock from Oxford Slough.	" "
2	" " "	" "	7-10	14	6-23	I canoed through the entire Ibis colony and these terns were present the whole way. They were present at the n. end at put-in, and also s. of the Ibis.	" "
3	Market Lake WMA	43.47-112.10 (TSN,R37E,S6)	-	44	6-7	On the east marsh there were 16 flying s., and by the main marsh canal there were 28, foraging.	" "
3	" " "	" "	-	2	6-11	On e. side, foraging.	" "
3	" " "	" "	-	12-13	6-24	Flying over the Ibis colony and along whole road north.	" "
3	" " "	" "	-	6-8	7-3	One bird with a fish in from the south. They seem to be concentrated west of the road, across from the Ibis colony. Probable nesting site.	" "
3	" " "	" "	6-12	6	7-21	Feeding over the East Spring Marsh, 3 are young of the year, so they did reproduce here successfully.	" "
4	American Falls Res.	42.59-112.16 (T5S,R33E,S36)	-	1	6-8	One hour watch in the McTucker Spring area yielded only one tern.	" "
4	" " "	" "	-	10	7-19	Feeding in reservoir out from the Snake River entrance.	" "

Table 15, cont. Nesting Locations and Sightings of Black Terns in Idaho, 1993.

Map #	Location	Lat-Long. (TRS)	* Nests	* Birds	Date	Comments	Source
4	American Falls Res.	42.59-112.16 (T5S,R33E,S36)	4-5?	50+	7-27	Feeding on theb Springfield Ponds, with 3 young of the year. The nesting colony was probably on the Fort Hall Bottoms.	This Study
5	Bear Lake NWR	42.11-111.19 (T14S,R44E,S34)	-	60+	7-8	Nesting not observed, but they present all summer in the marsh east of the the Outlet Canal for several miles.	R. Sjostrom
5	" " "	" "	-	1	6-19	One tern flying n. of the Paris - Dingle Road.	This Study
5	" " "	" "	-	4	7-10	In the area of the Salt Meadow Unit these terns were foraging.	" "
6	Carey Lake WMA	43.20-113.55 (T1S,R21E,S14)	8-10?	20+	6-9	Foraging over open water, nesting the cattails in the middle?	" "
7	Harriman St. Pk.	44.20-111.10 (T12N,R41E,S27)	-	6-8	6-29	Feeding over Silver Lake, but on 7-16 there were no terns here.	
8	Camas NWR	43.54-112.16 (T7N,R36E,S16)	-	present	6-16	These terns are known to have nested here previously.	G. Deutcher
8	" "	" "	-	8+	6-29	Foraging over open water in the w. Center Marsh area.	This Study
8	" "	" "	-	3	7-5	Foraging just n. of Two-way Pond	" "
8	" "	" "	4-6?	9	7-8	Feeding over Toomey Pond. I think they are nesting here.	" "
8	" "	" "	-	2	7-21	Feeding over Center Marsh area.	" "
9	Blackfoot Res.	42.48-111.38 (T6S,R41E,S11)	-	100+	6-19	Maybe coming from Gray's Lake NWR, but many feeding over the reservoir.	L. Hlavaty
9	" "	" "	4-6?	11	7-4	At Craig Lake, just west of Dike Lake at the south end of the reservoir. I think they are nesting here.	This Study
10	Mud Lake WMA	43.47-112.23 (T7N,R34E,S35)	-	27	8-4	Foraging over open water, with several young birds, from Camas?	" "
11	Kootenai NWR	48.42-116.10 (T62N,R2E,S13)	25-30	-	6-29	They failed to nest the last two seasons, but are this year.	J. Reynolds

Table 15, cont. Nesting Locations and Sightings of Black Terns in Idaho, 1993.

<u>Map #</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Lat-Long. (TRS)</u>	<u>* Nests</u>	<u>* Birds</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Source</u>
-	Deer Flat NWR, Snake River	44,12-117.05 (T7N,R5W,S22)	-	<100	5-26	They are present on the Snake River Sector of this refuge, but not known to nest.	W. Stanley

Total Range of Black Tern Nests = 68-91

CASPIAN TERN

Sterna caspia

STATUS: No current listing

Distribution and Movements

In the West, the Caspian Tern breeds locally in Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada, Utah, Wyoming, Montana, and Idaho. Breeding in Idaho is on the Snake River Plain. These terns winter from the central California coast southward, and in the Gulf of Mexico. Migration is along the coast and along large interior rivers.

Caspian Tern populations in Idaho were unsuccessful in the late 1970's, probably as a result of pesticide contamination, but populations appeared to be recovering in the early 1980's (Taylor 1990, Trost 1985). They are often shot near trout hatcheries because of their habit of eating fingerlings; given the small number of these terns in Idaho, protection from this shooting is recommended.

Habitat and Nesting

Caspian Terns hunt over open water, diving completely under the surface after their prey. Their food is largely fish, including suckers and trout. They may rob other seabirds of their food, and may eat the eggs or young of gulls and other terns.

These terns nest in single pairs, small groups, or large colonies near colonies of other terns or gulls, and their nests are found in association with gull colonies, either on the edge of the colony or, less frequently, in the central portion. Nesting habitat is generally islands or islets in lakes, but they also nest in marshes in the Klamath region of Oregon. Nests are bare ground on rocky islands or shallow scrapes on sandy islands; scrapes may be lined with grasses, seaweeds, or mosses. Nests in marshes are constructed of floating plants. The colonies are vulnerable to human disturbance. Clutch size varies from 1-4 eggs; 2-3 eggs is the most common size.

Survey Results

The number of Caspian Tern nests has remained remarkably stable since the last survey in 1984. Numbers were up at Mormon Reservoir and Blackfoot Reservoir, but down at Magic Reservoir, where low water has made the gull and tern colonies vulnerable to predation. We had no reports of these terns from Bear Lake NWR, where there were 10-15 nests in 1984, and observed no Caspian Terns there during our surveys. We suspect that winter kills of fish in shallow water throughout eastern Idaho have had a negative impact on this species.

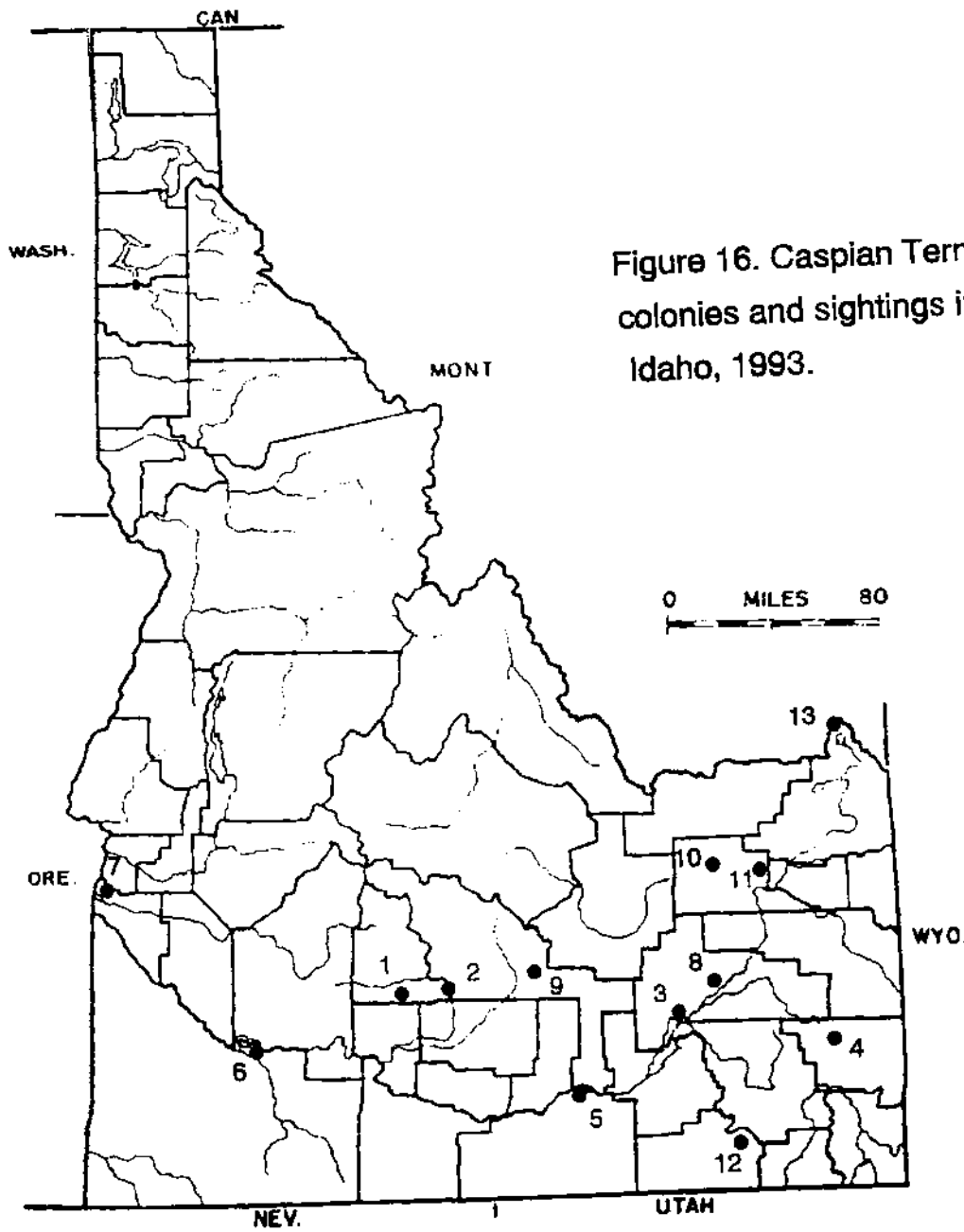


Figure 16. Caspian Tern nesting colonies and sightings in southern Idaho, 1993.

Table 16. Nesting Locations and Sightings of Caspian Terns in Idaho, 1993.

Map #	Location	Lat-Long. (TRS)	* Nests	* Birds	Date	Comments	Source
1	Mormon Reservoir	43.15-114.50 (T2S,R14E,S19)	20-30	30+	6-13	At least 20 sitting on nests on the w. side of Gull Island, in the s.w. arm of the lake.	This Study
2	Magic Reservoir	43.15-114.22 (T2S,R17E,S13)	1-2	4	6-13	Sitting in gull colony, but on a peninsula, so vulnerable.	" "
3	American Falls Res.	42.55-112.46 (T5S,R31E,S36)	-	1	6-8	One hour watch at McTucker Springs, one foraging tern.	" "
3	" " "	" " "	-	1	6-11	Same place, still one tern.	" "
3	" " "	" " "	-	2	7-2	McTucker Springs area, at the entrance of the Snake R. onto the reservoir, foraging.	" "
3	" " "	" " "	-	2	7-22	Resting by the silo, at the dam.	" "
3	" " "	" " "	-	2	7-27	Foraging near Tilden Bridge.	" "
4	Blackfoot Res.	42.48-111.38 (T6S,R41E,S13)	-	4	6-19	On Gull Island.	L. Hlavaty
4	" "	" "	20-25	25+	7-4	Birds sitting on nests on the n. end of Gull Island.	This Study
5	Minidoka NWR	42.40-113.20 (T9S,R26E,S5)	-	2	6-22	Sitting on small rocky island to w. of Gull Island. Adult pair.	" "
5	" "	" "	-	2	6-24	Again 2 birds near Gull Is. at dawn.	" "
5	" "	" "	-	3	7-5	Two terns at Raft River and one at Gull Island. All adults.	" "
5	" "	" "	1-2	4	8-19	Four terns flew over Gull Island, mobbing us as we counted nests of pelicans & cormorants. Adults.	" "
6	C. J. Strike Res.	52.50-115.45 (T6S,R6E,S5)	-	2	5-28	Two terns foraging by the bridge at Hwy 51. Adult pair.	" "
7	Fort Boise WMA	43.40-117.01 (T6N,R5W,S36)	-	2	5-30	Foraging up & down the river. Adult pair.	" "
8	Snake River at Blackfoot	43.10-112.25 (T3S,R35E,S33)	-	2	6-7	Foraging adult over the river.	" "
8	" "	" "		1	7-11	Over the Snake near Riverton.	" "
9	Carey Lake WMA	43.20-113.55 (T1S,R21E,S14)	-	2	6-9	Resting on n.w. shore, no apparent breeding. Adults.	" "

Table 16, cont. Nesting Locations and Sightings of Caspian Terns in Idaho, 1993.

<u>Map *</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Lat-Long. (TRS)</u>	<u>* Nests</u>	<u>* Birds</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Source</u>
10	Mud Lake WMA	43.53-112.23 (T7N,R34E,S34)	-	1	6-25	One seen from tower on n. side. Adult.	This Study
10	" " "	" "	-	4	7-21	Four terns resting on exposed mud, w/ gulls & pelicans. Adults.	" "
11	Market Lake WMA	43.47-112.10 (T5N,R37E,S6)	-	1	7-3	One tern over the main marsh. Adult.	" "
12	Devil Creek Res.	42.20-112.05 (T13S,R36E,S11)	-	2	6-7	Foraging adults, no nesting.	" "
13	Henry's Lake	44.45-111.20 (T16N,R43E,S31)	-	5	7-17	Resting with gulls at the s. end, near the boat access. All adults.	" "
-	Deer Flat NWR, Lake Lowell	43.40-116.45 (T3N,R3W,S33)	-	100+	5-26	Present in large numbers at times, no known nesting.	W. Stanley
-	Deer Flat NWR, Snake River	44.12-117.05 (T7N,R5W,S22)	-	500+	5-26	Present in large numbers at times, no known nesting.	" "
-	Kootenai NWR	48.42-116.10 (T62N,R2E,S13)	-	-	6-29	Present on refuge, but not known to breed.	J. Reynolds

Total Range of Caspian Tern Nests = 42-59

FORSTER'S TERN

Sterna forsteri

STATUS: No current listing

Distribution and Movements

Forster's Terns breed locally in the northwest, with breeding areas in eastern Oregon and eastern Washington, northeast California and northern Nevada, the Great Salt Lake area of Utah, and the eastern Snake River Plain of Idaho. These terns winter from central California south to Baja California and in the Gulf of Mexico.

Habitat and Nesting

Forster's Terns hunt for fish by diving into open, shallow water. They also scoop dead frogs, insects, and fishes from the surface of the water, and catch dragonflies and caddisflies in the air over marshes. Breeding is in loose colonies in both salt and fresh water marshes; these terns may also be solitary breeders on islands in large rivers or near the edge of freshwater lakes. Nests may be a depression in mud or sand, lined with grasses or bits of seashell. Floating nests may be placed on mats of dead marsh vegetation, and nests can also be found on top of muskrat houses or in appropriated grebe nests. These nests are lined with reeds and grasses. Clutch size varies from 2-5; three is the most common number of eggs.

Survey Results

Despite intensive searches and repeated visits to known nesting areas, we found no evidence of reproduction by Forster's Terns on the Snake River Plain. The only colony with nests was at the Duck Valley Indian Reservation, which was a new location for this species.

After seven years of drought, we had a heavy snowfall during the winter of 1992-1993, and snow remained on the ground for several months. The resultant anoxic conditions in many shallow marshes in eastern Idaho led to extensive fish kills. This apparently occurred at Mud Lake and Market Lake WMA's and at Camas NWR. In addition, Idaho Fish and Game killed most of the fish in Island Park Reservoir during the fall of 1992.

We suspect that this lack of food may be responsible for the lack of observed reproduction in these terns. Isolated pairs may have produced young on islands in the Snake River, but we found no juvenile birds in July and August.

It is critical that we continue to gather information on this species in 1994. Perhaps refuge managers can be alerted to count Forster's terns this spring and make note of any nesting attempts. We would be willing to coordinate such an effort. We feel that it is vital to know whether the reproductive failure of these terns was only a one-year event, or whether it indicates a serious, long-term problem.

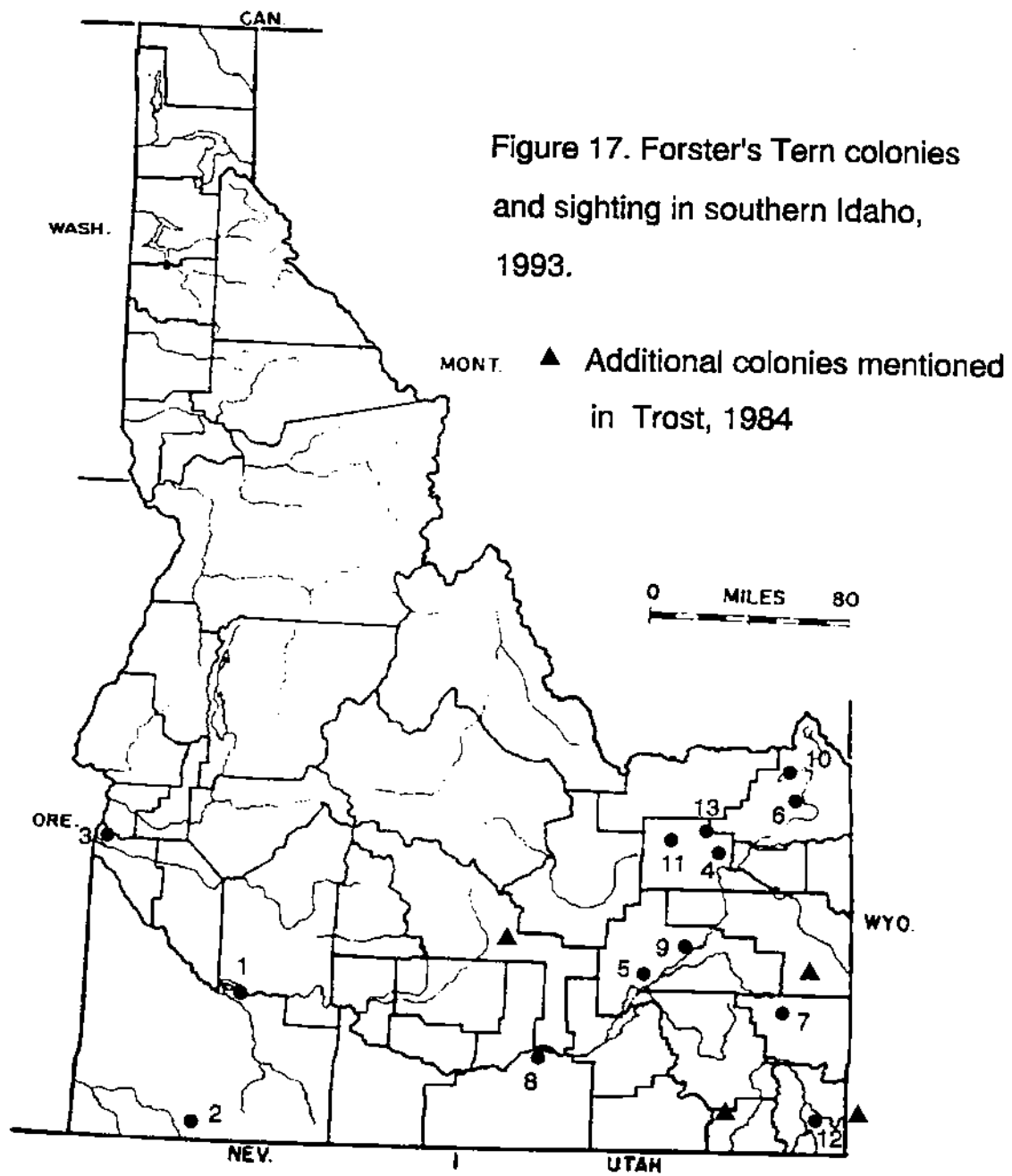


Table 17. Nesting Locations and Sightings of Forster's Terns in Idaho, 1993.

Map #	Location	Lat-Long. (TRS)	* Nests	* Birds	Date	Comments	Source
1	C. J. Strike Res.	52.50-115.45 (T6S,R6E,S5)	-	1	5-28	Foraging over the river below Hwy 51 bridge.	This Study
2	Duck Valley Indian Reservation	41.59-116.00 (T16S,R2E,S11)	-	10	5-28	Foraging on Mountain View Reservoir.	" "
2	" " "	" "	15-20	20+	6-29	Nesting in marshy area w. of the reservoir. Several nests with eggs.	" "
3	Fort Boise WMA	43.40-117.01 (T6N,R5W,S36)	-	3	5-30	Foraging over the river.	" "
4	Market Lake WMA	43.47-112.10 (T5N,R37E,S6)	-	3	6-7	Two over the main marsh, 1 over east marsh. Numvers seem down.	" "
4	" " "	" "	-	1	6-11	Over east marsh.	" "
4	" " "	" "	-	1	7-3	One feeding over the borrow pit s. of Roberts, by the freeway.	" "
4	" " "	" "	-	3	8-4	three adults over the east marsh.	" "
5	American Falls Res.	42.59-112.16 (T5S,R33E,S36)	-	2	6-17	Over the Snake R. near McTucker Springs, adults.	" "
5	" " "	" " "	-	2	7-2	Near River Road, McTucker Sp. There are several Common Terns here too, but more in open water.	" "
5	" " "	" " "	-	1	7-11	Foraging over the Snake R. about 1 mile upstream from McTucker Spr.	" "
5	" " "	" " "	-	3	7-19	All three adult Forster's, sitting on a mud bar at the mouth of the Snake R. on the reservoir.	" "
5	" " "	" " S29	-	3	7-25	Adults foraging near the silo.	" "
5	" " "	" " S36	-	4	7-27	Foraging over the Snake River between Tilden Bridge and the reservoir - no colonies.	" "
5	" " "	" " S33	-	5	8-12	Foraging adults at the edge near Aberdeen's Gull Island.	" "
6	Harriman State Park	42.40-111.30 (T14N,R43E,S27)	-	1	6-29	One foraging over Silver Lake, but none present on 7-16.	" "
7	Blackfoot Reservoir	42.48-111.38 (T6S,R41E,S11)	-	100+	6-19	Maybe from Gray's Lake NWR.	L. Hlavaty
7	" " "	" " S12	-	3	7-4	At Craig Lake, s. end.	This Study

Table 17, cont. Nesting Locations and Sightings of Forster's Terns in Idaho, 1993.

<u>Map #</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Lat-Long. (TRS)</u>	<u># Nests</u>	<u># Birds</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Source</u>
8	Minidoka NWR	42.40-113.20 (T9S,R26E,S26)	-	1	7-5	One tern was foraging at the Coldwater Cr. area on the Snake	This Study
9	Blackfoot Hwy Pond	43.10-112.25 (T3S,R35E,S33)	-	1	7-9	One Tern feeding over pond.	" "
10	Island Park Res.	44.25-111.35 (T13N,R42E,S36)	-	2	7-17	Foraging over the west end, no nest seen.	" "
10	" " "	" "	-	1	8-4	One tern flying over the marsh at the west end.	" "
11	Mud Lake WMA	43.53-112.25 (T7N,R37E,S35)	-	3	7-21	Adults sitting w/ Ring-bills on marsh.	" "
12	Bear Lake NWR	42.11-111.19 (T14S,R44E,S11)	-	120	7-8	In Mud & Rainbow Lakes areas, but nesting not observed.	R. Sjoström
13	Camas NWR	43.54-112.16 (T7N,R36E,S30)	-	present	8-16	Not known to nest.	G. Deutcher
-	Kootenai NWR	46.42-116.10 (T62N,R2E,S13)	-	-	8-29	Present on refuge, but not known to breed.	J. Reynolds

Total Range in Forster's Tern Nests = 15-20

COMMON TERN

Sterna hirundo

STATUS: No current listing

Distribution and Movements

In the West, Common Terns breed in Canada and south into northern Montana, and locally in Wyoming. In Idaho, Common Terns have bred in the southeast portion of the state. They winter from southern California south along the western coast of Baja California and into Central and South America. Southward migration occurs from August to December, and spring migration from March to May.

Habitat and Nesting

Common Terns hunt in open water by diving into the water after small fishes of approximately 3-4 inches (7.5-10cm) in length. Other prey includes crustaceans and occasional small insects.

In Idaho, the Common Tern is found on larger reservoirs, whereas the Forster's Tern is more typical of marsh habitats. Breeding is usually on isolated islands, and sometimes on the tips of sandspits, in colonies of several hundreds or even thousands. The nest is a slight depression in the soil, which may be lined with grasses, seaweeds, or bits of seashell. Clutch size ranges from 1-3 eggs, but three is the most common number.

Survey Results

Common Terns are a peripheral species that became established in southeastern Idaho during the 1980's. Adults of this species were present all summer at the mouth of the Snake River at American Falls Reservoir, but we found no evidence of reproduction. It could be that this tern was initially responding to drought conditions of the last seven years, which might have resulted in shallower waters for feeding. Nesting islands might also have been more available during low water years. In any event, conditions seem to have changed this year.

It is interesting that we found no evidence of reproduction in either Common or Forster's Terns on the Snake River Plain. As with the Forster's Tern, this species should be monitored next summer to see if the lack of reproduction is only a one year event, or indicates more severe long-term problems.

Figure 18. Common Tern sightings
in southern Idaho, 1993.

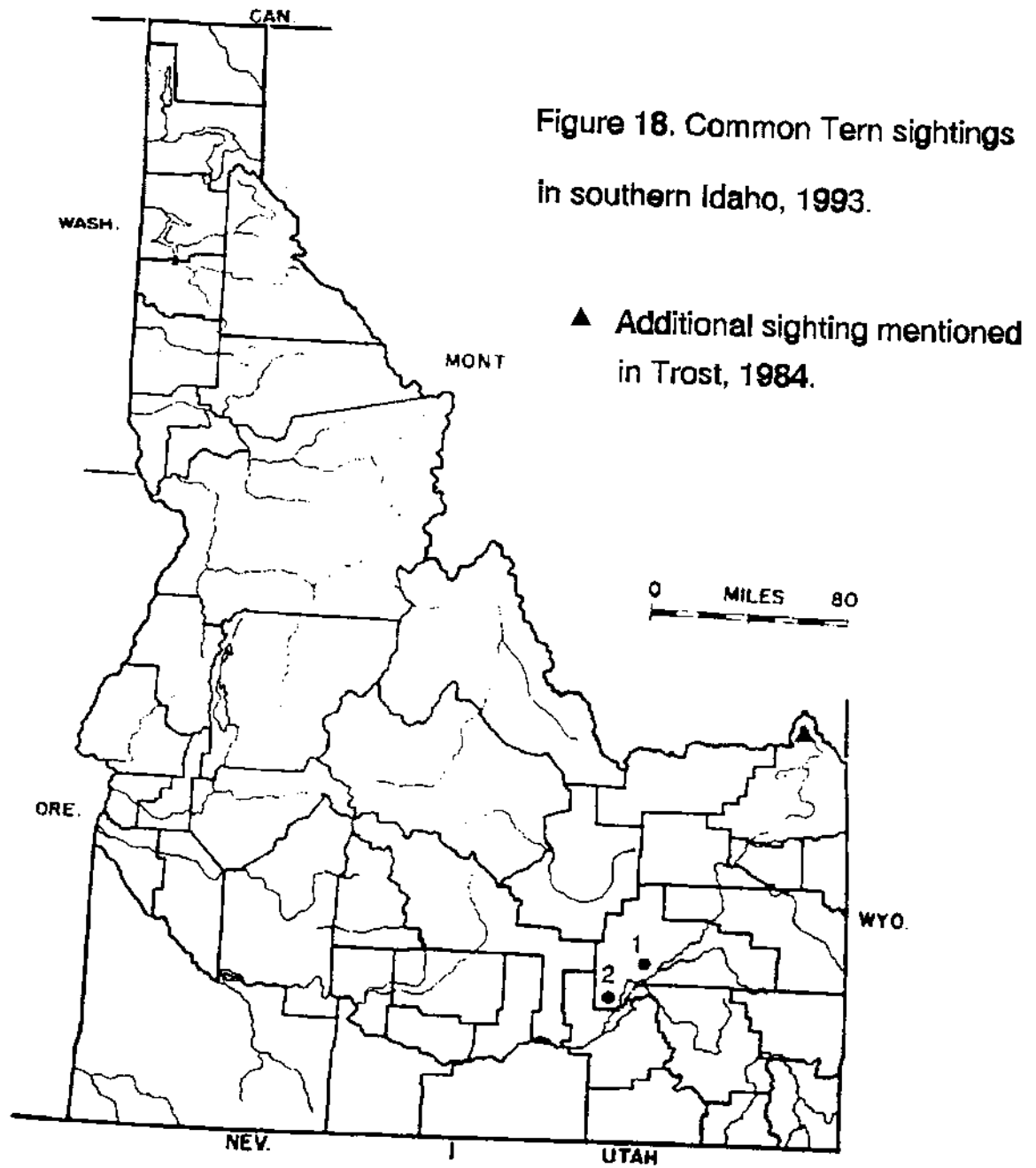


Table 18. Sightings of Common Terns in Idaho, 1993.

<u>Map #</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Lat-Long. (TRS)</u>	<u>* Nests</u>	<u>* Birds</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Comments</u>	<u>Source</u>
1	American Falls Res.	42.59-112.16 (T5S,R33E,S36)	-	8	6-17	Flying over reservoir at the mouth of the Snake River.	This Study
1	" " "	" " "	-	11	7-2	Over the mouth of the Snake River, one in winter plumage, but not a juvenile. Not nesting here this year, I don't think.	" "
1	" " "	" " "	-	8	7-19	Foraging at the mouth of the Snake River & the reservoir.	" "
1	" " "	" " "	-	2	7-27	At McTucker Springs area.	" "
1	" " "	" " "	-	14-29	8-12	A large group of terns were feeding off Danielson Cr., at least one was an Arctic Terns and 5 were Forster's. Many were Common Terns, though.	" "
2	" " "	42.50-112.40 (T6S,R31E,S29)	-	1	7-22	Foraging near the Silo, w/ an Arctic Tern.	" "
2	" " "	" " "	-	14	8-12	At Aberdeen Sportsman's Access, at Big Hole, there were at least 14 Commons, with several Arctics & 15 unidentified terns.	" "
-	Kootenai NWR	48.42-116.10 (T62N,R2E,S13)	-	-	6-29	Present on refuge, but not known to breed.	J. Reynolds

Total Number of Common Tern Nests - 0

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APPENDIX A

The questionnaire sent to refuge managers and other personnel is shown on the next two pages. The following organizations and individuals provided us with returns, and we gratefully acknowledge their help:

BLM, Boise District (John Doremus and Mike Mathis)
BLM, Jarbridge R.A. (James Klott)
Bear Lake N.W.R. (Richard Sjostrom)
Camas N.W.R. (Gerry Deutscher)
Deer Flat N.W.R. (Wayne Stanley)
Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game, Region 3 (Andy Ogden)
Idaho Dept. of Fish and Game, Soda Springs Dist. (Larry Hlavaty)
Kootenai N.W.R. (Jimmie J. Reynolds)
Market Lake W.M.A. (Don Kemner)
Mud Lake W.M.A. (Don Kemner)
Craig Groves and Jeff Marks

In addition, we would like to thank all the various management personnel who assisted us as we did the surveys; we never found out most of your names, but all were extremely helpful. We would especially like to thank Wayne Stanley, Kevin Ryan, and other staff members of the Deer Flat N.W.R., and Walden Townsend of the Duck Valley Indian Reservation, who were particularly helpful.

Bob Robertson of Western Air Research was the pilot for the aerial survey. Maps were prepared by Wang Xiachong and Glenn Carlson.

NAME OF AREA REPORTED: _____

Date: _____

Reported by: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

SPECIES OF WATERBIRD

STATUS IN YOUR AREA

	Present	Nesting	Est.# nests	Est total#
EARED GREBE				
CLARK'S GREBE				
WESTERN GREBE				
AM. WHITE PELICAN				
DOUBLE-CRESTED CORMORANT				
GREAT BLUE HERON				
BLACK-CROWNED NIGHT HERON				
SNOWY EGRET				
CATTLE EGRET				
GREAT EGRET				
WHITE-FACED IBIS				

(OVER)

SPECIES OF WATERBIRD

STATUS IN YOUR AREA

	Present	Nesting	Est.# nests	Est total#
CALIFORNIA GULL				
RING-BILLED GULL				
FRANKLIN'S GULL				
CASPIAN TERN				
COMMON TERN				
FORSTER'S TERN				
BLACK TERN				

Please use the space below for any information on specific locations of these populations, and how any population estimates were made. Thank you.

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Idaho State Office
3380 Americana Terrace
Boise, Idaho 83706

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